

advanced to anything like that extent from \$9.50 to \$14.50 a month for each family so that you can see the value in this one important item alone they have received considerable advantage.

"This fight between the help and the manufacturers must be ended. If the help want to control us and use capital it is manifest that they have undertaken a serious task, serious especially for themselves, for of course we shall keep our mills closed for a certain period, and, after that time, shall reopen with not only union hands and work, even though we should have to employ armed guards to protect our persons and property. But, as I said before, we are willing to open our mills if the help express their desire to work on our terms. I do not apprehend any trouble, even though we should keep closed all the winter. Nothing can be gained by violence or Communistic robbery.

The people who talk loudest about rioting and robbery are the organizations who will do all they can to continue the strike of the operatives.

"But is not the continuance of the strike causing great distress?" I inquired.

"Doubtless," said he, "there are cases of individuals suffering. Yet, of the whole population of 46,000, there are but few instances of starvation. We have allowed the operatives to remain in our tenements, at the first place. Had we turned them into the street when they left the mills the distress would have been much greater. Some have left of their own accord; however; others may have to leave later if they become obnoxious. What we want is to see the spinners (they are all men) and the other organizations (composed of men and boys and women) come to an understanding amongst themselves; then we can treat with them. At present they are divided into hostile factions."

SUFFERING AMONG THE OPERATIVES.

Of course this gentleman desired to make the picture brighter than it is. There is really intense suffering among the operatives. Hungry and poorly clad men and women haunt the rooms of the societies, hotels and stores, asking for relief and assistance. The other morning when they broke ground and commenced setting out the foundations of the new Post Office and Custom House on Bedford street there were 600 or 700 men looking on and anxiously waiting for work. You need only to walk the streets for two or three hours to realize the suffering of these poor people. Young girls, from ten to thirteen years of age, may be seen without shoes or stockings walking about the small thoroughfares, looking neglected and sorrowful, and, in some instances, with scarcely sufficient clothing to render them decent. At every corner, in every street, dozens of sad-looking men stand gazing about with their hands in their pockets. There is scarcely an building going on, and but for a little city work, such as the making of sewers, laying gas pipes, etc., there would be an absolute stoppage of work.

The "palace of industry," like the "Mechanics," the "Mechanics," the Granite and Troy mills, are as silent as the grave. The tour and these places gives you the idea of Sunday, quiet and monotonous everything ceases.

Said a local keeper to me, "I wonder they have not raided on us before this. Their appeals for 'something to eat' are constant. But we are doing nothing, and may be said to be almost as badly off as they are. There is no money circulating; there is no work going on outside of the mills; there is but little for storekeepers but trust business; altogether we are in a bad strait now."

THE OPERATIVE'S STORY.

Meeting a prominent weaver, I asked him why his society still advocated the maintenance of a strike that had already caused so much mischief and suffering. His reply was short but characteristic. "Our laborer can get no other work, and is not sufficiently remunerated for two years, and we propose to bring the manufacturers to terms. We have made many of them rich, while we are mostly poor. They want to squeeze us of the last pulse of energy and be able to stand us into absolute submission to anything they may propose. If we accept the present reduction of ten per cent in a month we may be docked ten per cent more. When the markets rise we get no increase. When the markets fall we are made to bear the full amount of the depreciation by having our prices cut down. Why shouldn't the manufacturers share it with us? They haven't done so, but we will make them, if I can, in the future."

OTHER VIEWS.

There is a singular idea prevalent with some that mills are too numerous and that it would be better either to close one-half of them permanently or reduce the general working force to that extent. For instance, an old Fall River journalist informed me that there was no doubt in his mind that the mill owners had overdone matters. Their business was promising a few years since, but lately, notwithstanding the slackness in trade and the want of promise in the future they had gone into mill building quite extensively, and several were yet in an unfinished state. Said he:—"There but one way out of our difficulty, and that is to settle our labor dispute and open up some new source of trade. The operatives must soon either work or rebel. I think that they will soon come to believe, however that half a loaf is better than none, and that they will unanimously agree to accept the twenty-four cent. The weavers' committee may recommend this. But these organizations war one against the other, and neither is able to help its own desolate. One organization has been sending agents about the country trying to collect money with which to buy food for the hungry, but they have not succeeded well. The others have in some instance exhausted their available funds and are unable to meet the demands made upon them.

SUNSHINE IN THE EAST.

Everything looks murky just now, but there is a ray of hope in the distance, and that is the new source of trade, which may solve our difficulties. You remember during the cotton famine in Great Britain that a certain ambassador stated if the Chinese would only take on wearing English calicoes and linens there would be work for every man, woman and child to provide the goods. Now, our manufacturers are determined to try what they can do in Japan and China, and have, I understand, sent several very large consignments to these countries with flattering results. Should this enterprise prove a thorough success we may soon see a return of old time business days and a speedy end to the trouble we now suffer from."

THE EXTREMISTS.

"What will be the probable result if the mill owners should insist on a lower rate than the present ten per cent reduction?" I asked.

"I fear," said he, "that we shall then have trouble. We cannot always reason with people who are led to believe they are being perpetually robbed. But we earnestly hope that the good sense of the manufacturers will lead them to avert any such trouble. Of course there are a few old country operatives, English and Irish, who believe that they have been ground down to the lowest point, and if they accept the present reduction it is the lowest they can or will accept without making serious trouble."

Thus, looking at the affairs here from every side, we see a total cessation of business, great poverty and much quiet suffering, a sad want of confidence between the employer and employe, and the locking up of millions that would be circulated for the general weal.

COLD WATER POLITICIANS.

The Queens County Convention of Prohibitionists assembled on Friday afternoon in the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association, at Hempstead, and organized by the choice of K. J. Hendrickson, of Queens, as President; Dr. Truse, of Flushing, Vice President, and Edgar McEullen as Secretary. The Committee on Nominations reported an indorsement of the candidates for State officers as presented by the State Temperance Convention, with the Rev. B. E. Reed, of Patchogue, for Senator in the First district and the following country tick:—Treasurer, Henry I. Rider, of Hempstead; Superintendent of the Poor, E. J. Hendrickson, of Queens; Coroner, George H. Kirby, of North Hempstead; Justice of Sessions, Wallace S. W. Alberton, Second district, David K. Elmer, of Pearlman in Third; County Executive Committee were also appointed, and strong resolutions were adopted favoring separate temperance political organization.

The Suffolk County Prohibition Convention, held at Lake Grove, made the following nominations:—Assembly, Edward Y. Reeve, of Nantuxet; School Commissioner, George H. Kirby, of Patchogue; Justice of the Peace, H. Hulse, of Bellport; County Treasurer, Charles H. Hulse, of Sayville; Superintendent of the Poor, E. J. Hendrickson, of Queens; Justice of Sessions, Wallace S. W. Alberton, Second district, David K. Elmer, of Pearlman in Third; County Executive Committee were also appointed, and strong resolutions were adopted favoring separate temperance political organization.

YACHTING NOTE.

Yacht *Madeline*, N. Y. Y. C. Mr. Voorhis, from New York, is at anchor off the *HERALD* telegraph station at Whitefish Bay.